

2 March 1951

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Proposed Executive Order on
Foreign Service Reporting

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. James Lynn, Bureau of the Budget,
Division of Statistical Standards
Mr. Gordon Freese, Bureau of the Budget,
Division of Administrative Management
Mr. James Q. Reber, Central Intelligence Agency,
Assistant Director, Intelligence Coordination
25X1A [redacted] Central Intelligence Agency,
Office of Intelligence Coordination

1. The Bureau of the Budget requested that CIA discuss with them the draft Executive Order on Foreign Service Reporting and the two changes proposed by the DCI's letter of February 14.

2. The first change would add at the end of paragraph 2 (b) of the Order: "provided that priority shall be given to those requests for information of critical importance to the national security." There was no disagreement with the substance of this addition but the necessity for including it in the Executive Order was questioned. CIA pointed out that it was desirable to make the point explicit in the Order without relying on subsidiary arrangements or agreements. If explicitly stated, it would strengthen the hand of the State Department in dealing with non-critical requests from essentially domestic agencies. The Bureau pointed out that State had not indicated that they felt they would need such an explicit statement, and CIA acknowledged that, this being the case and if their second proposal were accepted, they did not consider the first one to be of primary importance.

3. The second change suggested in the DCI's letter of February 14 would change the beginning of paragraph 3 of the Order to read: "The Department of State, recognizing the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence with respect to information relating to the national security, may assign priorities. . ." CIA explained that since the 1947 Act had placed in the DCI the responsibility to ensure coordination of intelligence relating to the national security, the Executive Order should take account of this fact and recognize that the DCI's responsibility was of a special overseeing and coordinating kind different from that of any other end-user of intelligence information. After considerable discussion the Bureau representatives seemed to accept the principle involved, but were anxious to find more exact language to express it. The discussion rested without having accomplished this result.

4. Throughout the session it was apparent that neither of the Budget representatives was familiar with the organization of CIA, the philosophy which underlies it, or with developments and changes in the last few months. Mr. Lynn stated, however, that, with the exception of Mr. Finan and Mr. Schwarzwald, he and Mr. Freese were more familiar with the non-budgetary aspects of CIA's work than anyone else in the Bureau.

Distribution:

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